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Appl. No. 09/729,426

Response to Office Action dated April 21, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A document management device, comprising:
a memory section for storing a document which has an identification number;
an input section for receiving an image including the identification number and summary information of the document which has the identification number;
a control section comprising an extracting section for extracting the identification number and the summary information from the image received by the input section, a document obtaining section which uses the extracted identification number to search for and obtain from among documents in the memory section the document which has the identification number, and a judging section for judging whether the extracted summary information is correct with respect to the document obtained by the document obtaining section; and
an output section for outputting the document obtained by the document obtaining section when the judging section judges the extracted summary information to be correct.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) The document management device as set forth in claim 1, wherein:
the image received by the input section is transmitted from an external device via a communications network, and the output section transmits the output document to the external device.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The document management device as set forth in claim 1, wherein:
the summary information comprises at least a partial image, and when an image which coincides with the extracted summary information section exists in the document obtained by the

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document obtaining section, the judging section judges the extracted summary information to be correct.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The document management device as set forth in claim 1, wherein, when the document obtaining section fails to obtain the document which has the identification number, the output section provides an output indicative of the absence of the corresponding document in the memory section.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The document management device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the image received by the input section includes information indicative of a version of the document which has the identification number.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The document management device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the memory section stores one or more additional documents each of which has the identification number and a different version.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The document management device as set forth in claim 6, wherein:

the control section judges a presence or absence of a predetermined mark in the image received by the input section, and when the control section judges the presence of the predetermined mark in the image received by the input section, the output section outputs the document having a latest version out of the documents obtained by the document obtaining section which have the identification number.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The document management device as set forth in claim 6, wherein:

the control section judges a presence or absence of version information in the image received by the input section, and when the control section judges the presence of the version information in the image received by the input section, the output section outputs the document

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having a version designated by the version information out of the documents obtained by the document obtaining section which have the identification number.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The document management device as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

the control section further includes an approval section for judging a presence or absence of correct approval information in the image received by the input section, and when the approval section judges the absence of the correct approval information in the image received by the input section, output from the output section is prohibited.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The document management device as set forth in claim 9, wherein each document which is stored in the memory section includes the approval information.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The document management device as set forth in claim 9, wherein, when the image received by the input section includes predetermined information together with the approval information, output from the output section is prohibited.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The document management device as set forth in claim 9, wherein, when the approval section judges the absence of the correct approval information in the image received by the input section, the output section provides an output indicative of the absence of the correct approval information.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): A communications terminal device, comprising:
an image reader section for reading a document image out of a document;
a control section having a line number extractor section for extracting a plurality of line numbers of external devices to be connected to a line out of the document image which was read out by the image reader section, and a line number selector section for selecting a line number for connection from the plurality of line numbers extracted by the line number extractor section;
and

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an image transmitter section for transmitting the document image which was read out by the image reader section with respect to an external device connected to the line,

wherein, when the line number extractor section extracts the plurality of line numbers of the external devices to be connected to a line out of the document image, the line number selector section selects one line number from the plurality of line numbers extracted, by making a comparison between the plurality of line numbers extracted and a line number of the transmitting end.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The communications terminal device as set forth in claim 13, wherein the line number selector section makes a comparison between an area code of the plurality of line numbers extracted by the line number extractor section and an area code of the line number of the transmitting end so as to select a line number having an identical area code.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The communications terminal device as set forth in claim 13, wherein the line number selector section adjusts the area codes of the plurality of line numbers extracted by the line number extractor section and the line number of the transmitting end to have the same number of digits, and selects a line number which has a least difference between the both area codes.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): The communications terminal device as set forth in claim 13, further comprising an image modifier section for deleting an image which is indicative of the line number of the external device to be connected to the line from the document image which was read out by the image reader section,

wherein the image transmitter section transmits an image from which the image indicative of the line number of the external device to be connected to the line was deleted by the image modifier section.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The communications terminal device as set forth in claim 13, wherein:

the image reader section reads images of front and rear sides of the document,

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the line number extractor section extracts the line number of the external device to be connected to the line from an image of one side of the document, and

the image transmitter section transmits an image of the other side of the document.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): A communications terminal device, comprising:

an image reader section for reading a document image out of a document;

a control section having a line number extractor section for extracting a plurality of line numbers of external devices to be connected to a line out of the document image which was read out by the image reader section, and a line number selector section for selecting a line number for connection from the plurality of line numbers extracted by the line number extractor section;

a memory section for storing a communications cost table in which communications charges per unit time for connecting the line are classified based on the line numbers; and

an image transmitter section for transmitting the document image which was read out by the image reader section with respect to an external device connected to the line,

wherein, when the line number extractor section extracts the plurality of line numbers of the external devices to be connected to the line out of the document image, the line number selector section selects one line number from the plurality of line numbers extracted, using the communications cost table stored in the memory section.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): The communications terminal device as set forth in claim 18, further comprising an image modifier section for deleting an image which is indicative of the line number of the external device to be connected to the line from the document image which was read out by the image reader section,

wherein the image transmitter section transmits an image from which the image indicative of the line number of the external device to be connected to the line was deleted by the image modifier section.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The communications terminal device as set forth in claim 18, wherein

the image reader section reads images of front and rear sides of the document,

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the line number extractor section extracts the line number of the external device to be connected to the line from an image of one side of the document, and

the image transmitter section transmits an image of the other side of the document.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A recording medium which stores a document management program which is used in a computer system including a memory section for storing a document which has an identification number, an input section for receiving an image including the identification number and summary information of the document which has the identification number, and an output section, the document management program for instructing the computer system to execute the processes of:

- (i) extracting the identification number and the summary information from the image received by the input section;
- (ii) using the extracted identification number, searching for and obtaining from among documents in the memory section the document which has the identification number; and
- (iii) judging whether the extracted summary information is correct with respect to the obtained document to determine whether to output the obtained document via the output section.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): A recording medium which stores a communications control program which is used in a computer system including an image reader section for reading a document image out of a document, and an image transmitter section for transmitting the document image read out by the image reader section with respect to an external device which is connected via a communications network, the communications control program for instructing a computer to execute the processes of:

- (i) extracting a plurality of line numbers of external devices to be connected to a line out of the document image which was read out by the image reader section; and
- (ii) selecting, when the plurality of line numbers of the external devices to be connected to a line are extracted by the process (i) out of the document image, one line number from the plurality of line numbers extracted by making a comparison between the plurality of line numbers extracted and a line number of the transmitting end.

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Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A document management system, comprising at least one document management device, and at least one communications terminal device which is connected to the document management device via a communications network, wherein:

the document management device includes: a memory section for storing a document which has an identification number; an input section for receiving from the communications terminal device an image including the identification number and summary information of the document which has the identification number; a control section comprising an extracting section for extracting the identification number and the summary information from the image received by the input section, a document obtaining section which uses the extracted identification number to search for and obtain from among documents in the memory section the document which has the identification number, and a judging section for judging whether the extracted summary information is correct with respect to the document obtained by the document obtaining section; and an output section for outputting the document obtained by the document obtaining section to the communications terminal device when the judging section judges the extracted summary information to be correct, and

the communications terminal device includes: an image reader section for reading a document image; a control section having a line number extractor section for extracting from the document image a plurality of line numbers of document management devices to which the communication terminal device is connectable, and a line number selector section for selecting one of the line numbers from the extracted plurality of line numbers; and an image transmitter section for transmitting the document image to the a document management device corresponding to the selected line number, wherein the line number is selected by the line number selector section based on a comparison between the extracted plurality of line numbers and a line number of the communications terminal device.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A document management system, comprising at least one document management device, and at least one communications terminal device which is connected to the document management device via a communications network, wherein:

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the document management device includes: a memory section for storing a document which has an identification number; an input section for receiving from the communications terminal device an image including the identification number and summary information of the document which has the identification number; a control section comprising an extracting section for extracting the identification number and the summary information from the image received by the input section, a document obtaining section which uses the extracted identification number to search for and obtain from among documents in the memory section the document which has the identification number, and a judging section for judging whether the extracted summary information is correct with respect to the document obtained by the document obtaining section; and an output section for outputting the document obtained by the document obtaining section when the judging section judges the extracted summary information to be correct, and

the communications terminal device includes: an image reader section for reading a document image; a control section having a line number extractor section for extracting from the document image a plurality of line numbers of document management devices to which the communications terminal device is connectable, and a line number selector section for selecting one of the line numbers from the extracted plurality of line numbers; a memory section for storing a communications cost table for communications charges per unit time for the line numbers; and an image transmitter section for transmitting the document image to the document management device corresponding to the selected line number, wherein the line number is selected by the line number selector section based on communications costs determined using the communications cost table.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A document management device, comprising:
a memory section for storing documents each of which has an identification number;
an input section for receiving an image including an identification number identifying a requested document and summary information of the requested document;
an output section;
a control section comprising an extracting section for extracting the identification number and the summary information of the requested document from the image received by the input

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section, a document obtaining section which retrieves from the memory section a document whose identification number corresponds to the extracted identification number, and a judging section which uses the extracted summary information to determine whether to output the retrieved document via the output section.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The document management device as set forth in claim 25, wherein:

the summary information comprises an image.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The document management device as set forth in claim 26, wherein the image comprises a condensed image of at least part of the requested document.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The document management device as set forth in claim 25, wherein the documents stored in the memory section comprise different versions of one or more of the documents, the different versions having the same identification number, but different version information.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The document management device as set forth in claim 28, wherein:

the control section determines a presence or absence of a predetermined mark in the image received by the input section, and

the judging section uses the presence of the predetermined mark in the image received by the input section to determine to output the latest version of two or more documents retrieved from the memory section which have the extracted identification number.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The document management device as set forth in claim 28, wherein:

the extracting section extracts version information of the requested document from the image received by the input section, and

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the judging section uses the version information to determine to output the corresponding version of two or more documents retrieved from the memory section which have the extracted identification number.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The document management device as set forth in claim 25, wherein:

the control section further includes an approval section for judging a presence or absence of correct approval information in the image received by the input section, and

when the approval section judges the absence of the correct approval information in the image received by the input section, output from the output section is prohibited.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The document management device as set forth in claim 25, wherein the image received by the input section comprises an image of a document request form on which the identification number and the summary information are printed.